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8 April 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lee Strickland
Chief, IRG/OIM

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson
JFK Project Officer

SUBJECT: Pending ARRB Issues for EXDIR Info Brief

(S) 1. Covert Actions. Within the Ford Presidential Library referred materials is a document which raises concerns. It is a Helms' MFR on a PIFAB Meeting. Within it there are references to CIA covert financial support to political parties in Peru, Greece, Italy and Brazil and to labor unions in France and Italy.

Status and Issues: The ARRB staff has agreed to recommend to the Board that the information related to those covert actions be considered non-related and the documents designated "Not Believed Related" (NBR). The document will be grouped with similar "NBR" documents and be presented to the Board for action at its 13 April or 12 May meeting.

(AIUO) 2. Alias Documentation and Accommodation Addresses. The security file of former Agency employee, David Morales (deceased -- true name already released), within the sequestered collection contains documentation on five of his alias. We anticipate similar problems as we re-review other security files within the sequestered collection. The ARRB staff has proposed a compromise resolution to this problem as follows:

-- Protect all references to official documents reflecting the alias such as SSN, Drivers Permit, etc.;

-- Release items designated as pocket litter such as club cards, etc.;

-- Protect elements of accommodation addresses to avoid identifying specific locations; and

-- Then make a decision to actually release or protect the alias itself depending on the timeframe and its importance to the JFK story.

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Status and Issues: The DO JFK Team is currently reviewing this proposal. If they agree with, the Agency and ARRB will spell out the guidelines which will be submitted to the Board at the 13 April meeting accompanied by a staff recommendation to accept. If the DO has problems with the proposed guidelines, I will request that the issue be postponed until the May meeting.

(AIUO) 3. ARRB Request, CIA-1, Organizational Materials. This request asked for organization charts on various Agency directorates/components for the years 1958-1968. All Agency directorates provided material responsive to the request. The ARRB staff has reviewed the material and selected items to be incorporated into the JFK collection. All selected material has been reviewed by appropriate components/IROs and can be released, either in full or in sanitized form except for the DO material. The DO has advised the ARRB staff that all of the DO items selected will be denied in full.

Status and Issues: The ARRB will present the selected material, including a DO JMWAVE chart, to the Board to be declared Assassination Records at the 13 April meeting. They will also propose that a generic DO organization chart be prepared in lieu of the records in contention. The chart would include those components that were involved in the Oswald story and anti-Castro activities. These JMWAVE and DO organization charts have been the subject of several discussions and meetings with the ARRB staff over the past few months. The ARRB staff is clearly leaning toward recommending that the JMWAVE chart be released; an actual vote on these records by the Board will not take place until the May meeting.

(S) 4. ARRB Request, CIA-IR.-15, Mexico City Tapes. This request asked for a thorough search of Agency files and documents for and CIA "surveillance 'take' from Cuban and Soviet facilities in Mexico City at the time of the Oswald visit and in the immediate wake of the assassination." Among the items provided by the DO were five boxes containing audio tapes from tel-tap on Cuban and Russian embassies and facilities. A number of the tapes are dated 22 November 1963; many others are dated 23 November 1963 through December 1963.

Status and Issues: The ARRB staff has asked the question, what could possibly be sensitive or classified on the tapes given that we have acknowledge a unilateral tap on the embassies and the existence of the tapes is public knowledge. Barring any additional information from the DO, the ARRB staff plants to present the issue to the Board at the 13 April meeting and request that it declare at least

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the tapes from 22 and 23 November to be Assassination Records. A vote on releasing the tapes will be delayed until the May meeting.

(S) 5. LITAMIL-9 -- a CIA Penetration of the Cuban Embassy. The identity of LITAMIL-9 was inadvertently released in 1993. He is now identified in true name as a CIA agent in John Newman's book, *Oswald and the CIA*. As of 1993, LITAMIL-9 was still alive, living in Mexico city and he has family in Cuba. Up to now, the ARRB Board has agreed to protect his identity and crypt and delay the release of his 201 file until the Agency could make some judgments about the potential damage created by the release on additional documents with his name/crypt in them.

Status and Issues: The ARRB has requested that we address LI-9 issue at the May meeting. The DO has confirmed that LI-9 is still alive and living in Mexico City. The HRP/DO JFK teams are currently reviewing the 201 and other LI-9 material in the file. It is unlikely that the Board would agree to delay release until 2017, however, there is precedent for delaying release of records on individuals for shorter periods or until death.

(S) 6. Richard Gibson, CIA asset. Gibson, who presently lives in England, is a left wing journalist who was associated with the Fair Play For Cuba Committee (FPFCC), an entity to which Oswald wrote letters and claimed to be a member. Gibson did not become an Agency asset until after the assassination, however, he had been of interest to the FBI when he headed the FPFCC. Unfortunately a combination of previous releases and release by the Board led to press reports in 1994/1995 about his relationship with the CIA. At that time, CIA officers were dispatched to advise him about the possible compromise and promise him the very best attempt at protecting the relationship. ARRB also agreed to delay the release of any additional information until the Agency and FBI had determined the full extend of the files on Gibson and the potential damage.

Status and Issues: The Gibson documents are scheduled for ARRB action at the May meeting. It appears to be possible to release Gibson's role in the JFK assassination story and protect his relationship with the Agency in our JFK assassination records; however, the FBI has a four volumes file which covers both FBI interest and Gibson's relationship with the Agency. The HRP/DO JFK teams are currently reviewing the Gibson material and I will be meeting with the FBI to review what they are releasing on Gibson and the disposition of their file.

(AIUO) 7. ARRB Request, CIA-IR-34, Files of CIA Officials and/or Officers. This is a major request. The board has ask for "the office files of the individual occupying the following positions during the period 1959-1964."

The Office of Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
General Charles Cabell 1953-1962
General Marshall Carter 1062-1965
The Office of the Deputy director for Plans
Richard Bissell 1958-1965
Richard Helms 1962-1965
The chronological files of C. Tracy Barnes, 1959-1964
Office of General Counsel, Lawrence Houston, 1959-1964
Operational Diaries of William Harvey 1962-1963.

Status and Issues: This request will by its very breadth require lots of time on behalf of directorate and DCI records officers. And, while it may seem overly broad, HRP has developed a methodology with the ARRB which provides the access required by the Board and guarantees that their review is focused. The request is for access to review the files for possible assassination related material and the Board has no interest in reviewing multiple files which have nothing to do with the assassination story. A meeting is held between the ARRB staff, HRP JFK team and the appropriate IRO to discuss the scope of the request. Usually, the ARRB staff are first provided shelf lists, indexes, records lists, etc. for the purpose of narrowing/selection what they think is important. HRP assist the IRO or component representatives in reviewing the selected files to ensure they deal with appropriate subjects and timeframes. Once access is approved, the appropriate IRO and component sets up a file review session with the ARRB staff. If material requested is particularly sensitive, access can be limited to the ARRB Executive Director or members of the Board. Any records selected as Assassination Records are subject to review under the JFK Act. This process has be used for numerous requests for access including DCI McCone Files, Family Jewels materials, histories and security files